A LETTER to the Loyal APPRENTICES

In and about *LONDON* and *WESTMINSTER*, for Their making of a Noble, Extraordinary, Rejoycing *PROSSESSION*, on *Monday* the Eleventh of *April*, 1698. being His Majesties Coronation Day, in Congratulation of His Majestys safe Returne Home; and for the Honourable, Firm, and Lasting *PEACE*.

Written by Captain Anthony Stampe.

31. Dec. 1697.

Gentlemen,

IT'S out of my kind Respects I have made bold, in this general Letter to you all, who, though you now live under Obedience to your Respective Masters, till your Several Terms of Years are expir'd, yet may in time come to be the *Great Body* of this his *Majesties* Emperial *City*, as well as those you now Serve: Therefore are you very Considerable in your Selves, and equally concerned in Publick Rejoycings with those that are *Freemen*.

Now, That you may not be thought deficient in your *Loyalty*, nor insensible of the Blessings of *Peace*, and the Benefits from thence to be received in a *Free-Trade*, which in a small time will accrew to your own Profit, and Enjoyment; if I may be deemed Worthy to Advice you, my Counsel to you should be, for your bringing up of the Rear of all the Congratulations of the Kingdom, being an Honourable Post, in the Second degree of Dignity; especially if in some way of Rejoycing distinguished from others, and proper for you, it would certainly gain you a lasting Reputation that Time shall not wear out: To that good end, I have invented, and drawn a Scheme of a most Magnificent, Triumphant, Congratulatory, Rejoycing Procession of *Britannia* and Four other Ladies that represents his *Majesties* Kingdoms: The whole of it will be so fine and rare, that it is not to be parallel'd.

I have designed that this Noble Procession shall be made by you, on *Monday* the 11th of *April*, being his *Majesties* Coronation Day; as the only fit and most proper time for you to make your Rejoycings in: Because by that time all the remaining Congratulations will be presented, and all things relating to make the same Graceful; will be got ready.

To gratify your Curiosity, I am willing to give you an abstract of the intended Procession: For if I should give you the Scheme at large, it would take up some Sheets of Paper to Set down in Order all the perticulars thereof: The Heads of the most Material parts of it are as followth, which may Suffice at present. There will be above Four Hundred *Wind* and *String* Instruments of *Musick*; at least Twelve Thousand *Flambeauxs*, a great Number of *Footmen*, *Pages*, and *Pages* of Honour, all in Orange Liverrys: Fifty *Banners*, bore up, if not more, according to the Number of Divisions: Every Division to contain about two Hundred; and the Divisions you are to go in, are to be Distinguished by your Habits one from another, by your being in several Ranks and Qualitys: For the Meaner sort of you, are to go in the foremost Divisions, they carrying their own *Flambeauxs*; and the better sort of you are to go in the latter Divisions, with others to attend you with *Flambeauxs*: The whole Procession is to be all in White, (Saving the *Ladyes*, *Pages* and *Footmen*) denoting Innocency and Peace in your Innoffencive Mirth; Singing all the way you go a new proper Song, to be made purposely for the Occasion; and the *Musick* playing all the way the same Tune. There will be five *Champions* in Armor, to go before their Respective Ladys: *Britannia* mighty Richly Attired, siting in an Open, Stately, Triumphal *Chariot*, to be drawn by Eight white Horses, Lead by Sixteen Grooms; and the other Ladies in very Rich Apparel, siting in Four Distinct, Beautiful, Open *Chariots*, differing one from another, each of them to be Drawn by six white Horses, and Lead by Twelve Grooms, to each Set of Horses, in Liverry as before, and all the *Chariots* to be drawn without *Coachmen* or *Postilions*.

There is to be *Morris-Dancers* and *Anticks*, with other strange Raritys. The Procession is to proceed thro' the Street, in regularly Order, from *Algate* to the *Cathedral-Church* of St. *Pauls*, so as to be there about Three of the *Clock* in the afternoon, to heare the Divine Service for that day, with a Congratulary Sermon to be Preached; and at the close thereof, Anthams also to be Sung before you, made Purpuse for the late Blessings received; when all this is ended, you are then to proceed

on to his *Majesties* Royal Palace-gate of *White-Hall*, or to *Charing-Cross*, or St. *James's Square*, as you shall be directed. And when it begins to be duskish, then you are to light all your *Fambeauxes*, and not before, because they may the better hold out till all things are acted and done: For, at one of those places is to be erected a most Glorious Throne, Illuminated all over, without and within, with an inumerable Number of Lights, & them within infinitely Multiplyed; where his *Majesties* Royal Heroick Vertues are wrote in Capital Letters, with his *Majesties Cyphers* and *Crownes*, to be seen and Read, all in *Glory*; with the *Sun* also. When the Ladies Descend out of their *Chariots*, they are to Ascend the Throne, and to take their Places according to their Qualitys: The four Ladies are to sit under *Britannia* all in State; where the Ultimate *Ceremony* is to be performed on a large Stage, placed before the Throne.

Gentlemen, The performance of this will be a grateful acknowledgment of the Dutiful Obedience you Justly owe unto his *Majesties* High and Princely Merits: And will let the World see, that you Seriously consider, and Thankfully own what his *Majesty* has done for his *Subjects*, and the great Blessing to this Nation in general, and this Honourable *City* of *London* in particular, as in the following Instances.

First, 'Twas Divine Providence that brought his *Majesty* over to us, to be our deliver from the then Impeding *Slavery* & *Popery*; and restore our *Liberties* & *Properties*.

Secondly, By his *Majesties* Protecting us in our *Religion*; and his being, not only the *Deffender* of the *Ptotestant Faith* at *Home*, but a *Broad* also.

Thirdly, For his *Majesties* Quelling of *Scotland*: And Reducing of *Ireland*, that might else have proved an utter Ruin to *England*: And the Fight fought by him at the *Boyne*, never to be forgotten.

Fourthly, For the Miraculus Preservation of his *Majesties* Royal Person against *Treasonable Practices*, that were designed, both a *Broad* and at *Home*, to take away his most *Sacred* Life, purposely to Involue his Kingdoms into Confusion and Blood.

Fifthly, For his *Majesties* frequent Crossing the *Seas*, whereby he kept a destructive *War* out of his Kingdoms.

Sixthly, For his *Majesties* Safe Return *Home* with Glory, from the final end of this Dangerous War.

Severthly, For his *Majesties* Personal Valour and Prudent Conduct did force his Potent *Enemy* to Seek, and Yeild to an Honourable, Firm, and Lasting Peace, which his *Majesty* hath purchas'd with the often Hazards of his most Precious Life.

If all these Valuable Considerations shall, as I suppose they will, press home upon you, so as to make the said Procession, it will Visible Demonstrate to the World the Joy, Zeal, and Affection you Stedfastly have, and bear to his *Majesties* Royal Person and Government; and it will, besides, be a great Honour to your *City*, and for your Selves, it will erect you an everlasting living Monument of Fame.

Gentlemen, My Request is, That such of you as shall approve of this Laudable design of mine, will, with what convenient Speed you can, be pleased to repare to the *Marine Coffee-House* in *Birching-Lane*, near *Cornhill*, on *Tuesdays*, *Wednesdays* and *Fridays*, from two of the *Clock* in the *Afternoon*, where Attendance shall be given, not only to shew the Scheme of the said Procession, which I have Drawn at large, but Likewise to Sign an Instrument to Impower me to Petition his *Majesty*, on your Behalfes, for his Royal Leave, whereby you may make the said Procession accordingly; and if you are Remote from thence, and your occasions cannot permit you to come thither, then I desire you, with those others you meet withal, that are *Apprentices* in any other part of the Town, to draw up such a paper amongest your Selves, and sign it, to Impower me, as aforesaid, and send it by the Penny *Post* to the said *Coffee-House* for me, and as soon as I have Obtained Leave for your making the said Procession, I will give you Notice thereof in Print, and likewise what is further Requisit to be done, in Order to raise a *Fund* to Compleat the said design; and the Money so raised, to be disposed of, for the use aforesaid, by such Persons as shall be appointed by you. The more you are in Number, to make this Procession Prodigious, will make the Charge thereof both Light and Ease to you all. I am

Your most Humble Servant

The 31st of December, 1697.

Anthony Stampe

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